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To: Samek, Karen

Subject: EPA Finds Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments of Little or No Benefit to U.S. Soybean Production

EPA Pesticide Program Updates



From EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs

www.epa.gov/pesticides

October 16, 2014

In This Update:

EPA Finds Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments of Little or No Benefit to U.S. Soybean Production

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an analysis of the [benefits of neonicotinoid seed treatments for insect control in soybeans](#). A Federal Register notice inviting the public to comment on the analysis will publish in the near future.

"We have made the review of neonicotinoid pesticides a high priority. During the review, we found that many scientific publications claim that treating soybean seeds has little value," said Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "This propelled the agency to evaluate the economic benefits of this use. We found that the benefits to U.S. soybean farmers on a national scale were just not there."

The EPA assessment examined the effectiveness of these seed treatments for pest control and estimated the impacts on crop yields and quality, as well as financial losses and gains

The analysis concluded that:

- There is no increase in soybean yield using most neonicotinoid seed treatments when compared to using no pest control at all;
- Alternative insecticides applied as sprays are available and effective;

- All major alternatives are comparable in cost; and,
- Neonicotinoid seed treatment could provide an insurance benefit against sporadic and unpredictable insect pests, but this potential benefit is not likely to be large or widespread throughout the United States.

This analysis is an important part of the science EPA will use to move forward with the assessment of the risks and benefits under registration review for the neonicotinoid pesticides. Registration review, the periodic re-evaluation of pesticides to determine if they continue to meet the safety standard, can result in EPA discontinuing certain uses, placing limits on the pesticide registration, and requiring other label changes.

[Sign up for Pesticide Program Updates](#) to be notified by email when the EPA opens the docket and invites comment on its analysis of the benefits of neonicotinoid seed treatments on soybeans.



EPA distributes its Pesticide Program Updates to external stakeholders and citizens who have expressed an interest in the agency's pesticide program activities and decisions. This update service is part of EPA's continuing effort to improve public access to federal pesticide information.

For general questions on pesticides and pesticide poisoning prevention, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), toll-free, at: 1-800-858-7378, by E-mail at npic@ace.orst.edu, or, by visiting their website at: <http://npic.orst.edu>

To report an environmental violation, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

For information about ongoing activities in the Office of Pesticide Programs, visit our homepage at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

Telephone 703-305-5017 or write us directly at Communication Services Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs (7506 P), US Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2403.

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